

## Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 SCEM-02 GAC-01

SAJ-01 INT-08 OEP-01 STR-08 CEA-02 RSR-01 /178 W

----- 055845

R 291809 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4191

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 04658

E. O. LL652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, GE, GW

SUBJECT: FRG- GDR DISCUSSION OF SWING CREDIT

REF: A. BERLIN 524; B. BONN 4482

1. AN INNER- GERMAN TRADE EXPERT ( OLLIG) IN THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE INTEREST- FREE SWING CREDIT PORTION OF THE ROHWEDDER- SOELLE CONVERSATIONS IN LEIPZIG. ( SEE REFTEL A FOR A FULL REPORT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS).

2. IN HIS PRESENTATION, ROHWEDDER AGAIN PRESSED THE GDR TO PERMIT THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ELECTRIC LINE TYING WEST BERLIN TO THE FRG POWER NET AS A QUID PRO QUO FOR EXTENDING THE SWING CREDIT AFTER L975. ( SEE BERLIN' S EXCELLENT AIRGRAM A-3 O FOR A DISCUSSION OF THIS AND OTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR MEETING BERLIN' S FUTURE ENERGY REQUIREMENTS.) WHILE SOELLE MADE NO COMMITMENTS, HE DID, FOR THE FIRST TIME, TAKE OFFICIAL COGNIZANCE OF THE FRG PROPOSAL; IN  
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PREVIOUS NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN KLEINDIENST AND BEHRENDT, THE LATTER HAD IGNORED ALL MENTION OF THE ELECTRIC LINE. OUR CONTACT THINKS IT TOO EARLY TO KNOW WHAT, IF ANY, SIGNIFICANCE SOELLE' S ACTION HAD. NOR IS HE CERTAIN THAT THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY CAN CONVINCE THE BUNDESBANK TO AGREE TO RETAIN THE SWING AT ITS L975 LEVEL FOR SEVERAL ADDITIONAL YEARS EVEN IF THE GDR APPROVES THE ELECTRIC LINE. WE WERE TOLD THAT ECONOMICS MINISTER FRIDERICH'S PLANS TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH BUNDESBANK PRESIDENT KLASSEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT IS OUR CONTACT' S CONCERN THAT THE FRG MIGHT LOSE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE AN " ECONOMIC CONCESSION" FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE SWING. HE SAID THAT, IF THE NEGOTIATIONS DRAG ON, CHANCELLOR BRANDT AND/ OR MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO BAHR MIGHT LATER BE PERSUADED TO SEEK A " POLITICAL QUID PRO QUO" INSTEAD. THIS CONCERN MAY HAVE SOME FOUNDATION, BUT IT MAY MERELY REFLECT THE CURRENT RIVALRY BETWEEN THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY AND THE CHANCELLORY OVER CONTROL OF INNER- GERMAN TRADE ( SEE REFTEL B).  
HILLENBRAND

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**TAGS:** ETRD, GE, GW  
**To:** BERLIN  
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